

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

*"Better Service for a Better Environment"*

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: [www.state.mi.us](http://www.state.mi.us)

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

**REPLY TO:**

DRINKING WATER & RADIOLOGICAL  
PROTECTION DIVISION  
3423 N MARTIN L KING JR BLVD  
PO BOX 30630  
LANSING, MI 48909-8130

March 9, 1999

TO: Local Health Departments  
Attn: Environmental Health Directors  
Supervising Sanitarians  
Field Sanitarians

FROM: James K. Cleland, P.E., Acting Chief  
Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division

SUBJECT: Separation of Private Water Wells from Biosolids Land Application

This is to acknowledge a discrepancy in the separation distance specified in Part 127, 1978 PA 368, as amended (state well construction code), between a water well and an area where biosolids are land applied. Section R 325.1622, Rule 122(1)(b)(I) of the state well construction code requires a separation distance of 300 feet, which is more restrictive than the more contemporary biosolids land application requirements contained in 1997 PA 29 (Michigan Biosolids Act). Act 29 specifies 100 feet of separation from a private residential well if the biosolids are incorporated into the soil and 150 feet if they are land applied without incorporation.

The Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division recommends using the less restrictive separation distances contained in Act 29, in conjunction with a deviation issued pursuant to R 325.1613, Rule 113 of the state well construction code, unless site specific information justifies the greater separation distance. It is intended that the 300 foot separation distance in R 325.1622 be amended to conform with Act 29 upon next revision of the state well construction code. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Michael S. Gaber, at 517-335-8304, or me, at 517-335-9218.

cc: Mr. Robert Babcock, DEQ  
Mr. Richard Sacks, DEQ  
Mr. Wm. Elgar Brown, DEQ  
Mr. Michael S. Gaber, DEQ